



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

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Three districts share \$325,000 in continuous improvement grants

Beloit, Janesville, and Stoughton school districts receive Title I grants

MADISON—Three southern Wisconsin school districts will receive \$325,000 in grants to help them meet their goals for improving student achievement.

“The efforts of these districts to partner with their communities to improve student achievement serve as models for the rest of the state,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “These grants will help public schools in Beloit, Janesville, and Stoughton lift achievement for all students and close the gap between students of color, economically disadvantaged students, and their peers.”

Each of the districts will receive a \$50,000 school improvement grant. The grants may be used for a number of activities, including increasing student tutoring; expanding summer school programming; providing professional staff development; purchasing supplemental instructional materials; developing early intervention programs with students, teachers, parents, and the community; and strengthening student literacy and numeracy through community and parent involvement.

All three districts will receive early literacy grants. The grants can be used to create partnerships to encourage early literacy through physical activity and nutrition lessons during school or in after-school settings; expand early literacy opportunities and teacher competencies by using the Wisconsin

Continuous Improvement Grants

Beloit School District — \$100,000

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| District School Improvement Grant | \$50,000 |
| Alliance for Attendance Grant | \$20,000 |
| Early Literacy Grant | \$30,000 |

Janesville School District — \$145,000

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| District School Improvement Grant | \$50,000 |
| Alliance for Attendance Grant | \$20,000 |
| Early Literacy Grant | \$35,000 |
| REACH Grant | \$40,000 |

Stoughton Area School District — \$80,000

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| District School Improvement Grant | \$50,000 |
| Early Literacy Grant | \$30,000 |

(more)

Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) to guide curriculum and improve program quality; strengthen partnerships among schools and public libraries; or enhance existing Even Start Family Literacy programs.

“Early learning activities are vital in our efforts to close the achievement gap because they lay the foundation for reading and all other learning,” Burmaster said. “Ensuring that students are reading at or above grade level in the early years will work toward stronger achievement in the middle and high school years.”

Beloit and Janesville also will receive Alliance for Attendance grants to target school attendance. “Clearly students cannot learn the lessons taught in our classrooms when they are not in school,” Burmaster said. “Milwaukee piloted the collaborative framework of the Alliance for Attendance by bringing the community together to find solutions to improve daily attendance. The success of the Alliance is expanding to other parts of Wisconsin to impact attendance, increase students’ academic achievement, and close the achievement gap.”

Additionally, Janesville will receive a \$40,000 district incentive grant for the Responsive Education for All Children (REACH) Initiative. REACH helps schools make systemic improvements that reduce barriers to learning and enable all students, including those with disabilities, to experience academic success. Janesville will be among districts implementing a coordinated, multi-tiered model of evidence-based instructional options, universal screening, and ongoing progress monitoring.

The grants are funded from the federal Title I Program, part of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001, also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The districts will receive funding based on school progress on the four annual measurable objectives used to determine adequate yearly progress under Wisconsin’s plan to meet accountability requirements of NCLB. The objectives are test participation, graduation and attendance criteria, and achievement levels in reading and mathematics.

“It is our shared value to educate all children to their highest level of achievement. Investing in the continuous improvement efforts of these districts is an important part of the future social and economic health of our entire state,” Burmaster said.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at < http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_123.pdf >.